

10 MONRO, Tuesday, March 6.

This day at four o'clock, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor proceeded to the Chamber of the Honorable the Legislative Council, where being arrived, and seated on the Throne, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was sent with a message from His Excellency to the House of Assembly, commanding their attendance. The Members present being come up accordingly, His Excellency was pleased to prologue the Session of the Legislature with the following—

SPEECH

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: Considering the circumstances under which you were lately assembled, it is satisfactory to me to observe that you have been enabled, notwithstanding occasional anxiety from attempted invasion of our frontier, to give your deliberate attention to the public interests.

When the mild Aborigines of this Continent, who live among us unincorporated and respected, were informed that citizens of the United States, disregarding the wampumbelt which was sacredly connecting them with Great Britain, had invaded our shores to sympathize with the sufferings of the red tenants of the forest, and to offer to the enemy of British rule, did our Indian brethren hail their approach? No, their chiefs and warriors instantly painted their faces for battle, and with rifles in their hands these free-born defenders of their virgin soil appeared before me with a request—

When the Canadian farmers and yeomen of British origin were informed that citizens of the United States, sympathizing with their sufferings, had in three instances taken forcible possession of Her Majesty's territory, for the purpose of liberating them from British domination—that, with this object in view, the American leaders had issued proclamations promising to each liberator three hundred acres of the best lands of Upper Canada, with one hundred dollars in silver—that the American self-styled General in command of the liberators had called upon the citizens of Upper Canada "to free their land from tyranny"—to rally round the standard of liberty—to lay down their arms—in which case, it was beneficently promised to them, that their persons and property should be protected, and that if they would "cease resistance, all would be well with them."—Did the Canadian inhabitants hail their approach? No, on the contrary, their brave and loyal militia, although totally deprived of the assistance of Her Majesty's regular troops, rose simultaneously, and regardless of every private consideration, wherever the invaders were seen bristling on our shore, ready to receive them. On the eastern, as well as on the western frontier, but one feeling prevailed—it was a noble determination on the part of free men, to conquer or die in defence of their character—their constitution—their religion—their families—and their farms, yet, notwithstanding their excited feelings, when the American citizens, who from an armed schooner, had cruelly battered the town of Amherstburg, fell into the hands of the brave militia of the Western District, (in which not a single rebel had been in arms,) did these prisoners fall victims to popular fury, or were they even insulted? No; the instant our invaders surrendered to British power they experienced that mercy which

It is much to be lamented that at a moment when the disturbed state of Lower Canada, and the depression of commerce occasioned by it, must tend materially to diminish our revenue, the necessity for new charges should be created to an inconvenient extent, by the unexpected hostility of our allies, which has forced us, for a continued length of time, into a state of actual warfare along the whole extent of our frontier.

Honorable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen:

I regret to say that there exist animosities among a portion of the American people, so strong a desire to force upon the free inhabitants of this Province, republican institutions that with scarcely an exception every Government arsenal from Lake Champlain to Lake Michigan, has within the last two months been broken open and plundered, to furnish arms for the invasion of this portion of the British Empire; and however the circumstance may be explained, it is certainly a remarkable fact that all these robberies have been effected without the sacrifice of a single life, without even the imprisonment of the person who is notoriously the instigator of these acts.

The wrong which citizens of the neighboring States have committed, by thus attempting to dictate to the inhabitants of Upper Canada the form of Government under which they are henceforward to exist, will be as the assertion of a new theory, will be condemned by the civilized world as severely, as in practice it has been

Province.

What right, it will be calmly asked, have the inhabitants of one country, armed with the artillery and weapons of their Government, to interfere with the political institutions of another? What excuse, it will be gravely considered, had citizens of the United States for invading the territory of Upper Canada?

When our colored population were informed that American citizens, sympathizing with their sufferings, had taken violent possession of Navy Island, for the double object of liberating them from the domination of British rule, and of imparting to them the blessings of republican institutions, based upon the principle that all men are born equal, did our colored brethren hail their approach? No! on the contrary, they hastened as volunteers in wagon loads to the

Niagara frontier to beg from me permission, that in the intended attack upon Navy Island they might be permitted to form the vanguard—

in short they supplicated, that they might be allowed to be foremost to defend the glorious institutions of Great Britain.

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—and from the western extremity of Upper Canada, they were conducted unharmed through the Province, safe under the protecting wings of our laws!

When a band of rebels, defeated in their cruel object to reduce this Capital to ashes in the depth of a Canadian winter, were, after the conduct at Gallows-hill, brought to me as prisoners on the field—any distinction made between American-born and our other Canadian Subjects? No, all were equally pardoned; and though many of our brave men, smarting under feelings natural at the moment, evidently bowed in obedience to the administrator of their laws, and, under the noble influence of Monarchical Government, they allowed their assil-

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ants to pass un injured ranks.

When the gallant the Provinces of New and Nova Scotia received that American citizen commenced an attempt to the tyranny of British rule, and a general of loyalty resounded in the land, and a general of us was evinced.

If Upper Canada was young, healthy Province, protection on the Continent but its character, and the agricultural difficulty to contend with—its very it has shown in the mency it has extended, assured assailants, ought sufficient to make its aggression of their late attempt

integral portion of the pire, and that the two at this moment bound solemn treaty of peace, attack of citizens of it upon the Province, after completely quelled a slight surrection, will, if perse cite feelings among the nations of Europe, who but little to the character of institutions: for support of a nation should not dread that its frown, and hand be more fatal lifted arm.

When the facts just clearly comprehended men, how will the American who have so wantonly British Empire, find explain, that the Province Canada required their in its concerns?

But it seems now to that our invaders have ed—that they falsely ed Canadian people—and have at last learned that Farmers, Militia, India Population of the

to Democracy; nevertheless, an ex post facto excuse for the sinful and repeated invasion of the Province, it is urged that the crew of the Caroline steam-boat, which was captured more than fourteen days after Navy Island had been freely taken from us, have been "assassinated," and that "an extraordinary outrage" has been committed upon the Americans by our Militia, who so ably and gallantly cut out that pirate vessel.

If Navy Island had been violently taken possession of by Canadian rebels, instead of by a body of Americans, armed, fed and commanded by American citizens—if these Canadian rebels had then thought proper to invade the United States—to break open half a dozen of their State arsenals—to rob each of many hundred stand of arms—to plunder from the American Government twenty-two pieces of cannon—and to set the laws and authorities of the Republic at defiance—could any reasonable man declare, that we could be supposed to intend to offer any offence to our allies in a moment of profound peace, were we to pursue in the River, the and capture her, when she was in British water—in American waters?—would it not be our bounden duty to the American people, to capture this pirate vessel?—and if we were to fail to do so, might not our allies hold us responsible for acts of such unprovoked aggression, committed upon them by British Subjects, inhabiting a British Island?

Again, supposing that the Americans were to co-operate with us (as under such circumstances of course they would have done,) in chasing this pirate vessel, could it be supposed that each party would only be permitted by the other to exult her, so long only as she continued in their own half of the River; and that if our English hostess at the peril of their lives, were to capture the vessel in American waters, or on the American shore, it would be considered by the Americans as a "splendid outrage"? There can be no doubt in

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